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1965-08-26, Bette to Parents

Bette J. Barto

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Subject Terms

Women and the military, Women and war, United States -- Air Force, United States -- Army -- Air Forces, Photographs, Armed Forces -- Correspondence, Correspondence -- Vietnam War -- 1961-1975, Christmas

Summary

This collection contains 139 correspondence from Maj. Bette J. Barto, USAFE to her parents while serving as a nurse during the late 1950s and 1960s. Also included are three photographs, one special orders document, and one marriage license. In several cases, Bette refers to her parents as "Lizzie" and "Hugh Elmer," or simply "Elmer." Three letters from 1961 or 1962 are undated and placed in a separate folder.

Keywords

1965-08-26

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2017-219-w-r-_Barto_ColdWar_1965-08-26

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Maj. Mrs. R. L. Carls.
707 Farmington Drive
Derby Kansas 67037



Mr. & Mrs. N. E. Harris
1717 Highland Avenue
Knoxville 16, Tennessee
37916

Air Mail

0745 Thursday 26 Aug 65

I may get no further than the beginning sentence. I had one of those written yesterday and never got another free minute all day.

Ray is still ill. He has had nite sweats and fever & nausea, & vomited yesterday a.m. until he was unable to get up from in front of the commode. I put him back to bed and he stayed home yesterday all day. I talked with his flight surgeon and he said I should get him in to see him today. He thinks it's probably only fatigue & flu like I thought, but he didn't receive any anti-malaria pills for 3 weeks after he arrived over there. Dr. Page doesn't think he has malaria but he wants to check him anyway. I skin tested him for tuberculosis last nite since there are many people coming back from South East Asia with positive skin-tests & many with active tbc. I hope it's only fatigue. He is still talking a lot about the flying missions.

and I think he really is quite upset by having had to kill people. Its different from bombing a cleared target range. Im sure this bothers everyone who has ever gone to war, but our weapons are so much more destructive now. I guess it will take him a while to get over it so I have just let him talk when he wants to.

0930 27 Aug 65:

Hi again -

You can see Im having trouble getting a letter finished. We have been so busy giving school immunizations, its been like Grand Central Station at high noon - all last week & this week. I have my leave card in my pocket for Monday through Friday of next week 30 Aug. - 3 Sept. We will probably drive over to Colorado a couple of days just to look at the mountains. Ray feels better today and I did get him in to see Dr. Page yesterday. He did a chest film & some blood work on him. Ray hates to come so bad I

was surprised I was able to convince him of the need. He didn't have any chills or sweating last evening and night so maybe it's only the flu. I think the main thing is to let him rest as much as possible and I hope next week will do the trick. I'm so glad to have him home; maybe I can keep him here this time.

We have our driveway entrance completed and it should be ready to park on in a day or so more. I drove on it last nite because it had been dry for 72 hours - then this morning as I left for work the civilian contractors told me they'd have to block my driveway to keep me off of it! I was furious and I told them I was paying for it + I would have appreciated being told before I drove on it that I wasn't to use it.

-1520-

Just got back from lunch and the smart alecks have tied a tiny string to 2 stakes across my drive - like shutting the barn door after the horse is

gone! Ray doesn't think I hurt it (He had told me to use it). They are supposed to pour the sidewalks next & then maybe the streets in a week or so more - never saw such a disjointed operation.

I will be glad when this day is over, for we have very few physicians and a continuous flow of patients each of whom thinks his is the only ailment on the building.